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PETITION AGAINST ERECTING A COURT-HOUSE AND JAIL AT EASTON, PENNA., 1765.

[From the original in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

TO THE HONOURABLE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FREEMAN OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MET.

The Humble Petition of divers Inhabitants of the County of Northampton in the said Province.

Sheweth:

That By the Law which erected the said County passed in the Twenty fifth year of his late Majestys Reign, certain Persons were empowered to purchase and take assurance of Land to them and their Heirs, of a piece of Land situate in the Town of Easton, in the said County, in Trust and for the use of the Inhabitants of the said County; and thereon to build a Court House and Prison sufficient to accommodate the public Service of the said County and for the Ease and Convenience of the Inhabitants.

That your Petitioners have found by Twelve years sad Experience, the great Hardships and Inconveniency of the said Law, by fixing the Seat of Judicature in so remote a Corner of the said County; and not Choosing some convenient spot in or near the Centre of the same County for that purpose. That there could not have been a Place devised more unsuitable and inconvenient than Easton appears from its being situated at an extreme Corner of the County, environed on all sides with Hills and Rivers, secluding it, as it were, from the rest of the County (with which it can never have any necessary communication nor become a thoroughfare or place of Traffic and Trade). The Roads by means of the aforesaid Hills and broken Lands thereabouts being rendered in the Winter Season unsafe for Travelling on Horseback, and almost inaccessible for Waggons and Carriages. That the Distance of the said Town from the West and North West extreme parts of the said County, which contains the Chief part of the Inhabitants, is very great; So that many Persons residing there, finding the necessary means for recovering their Rights is attended with so much Trouble and Expense, rather choose to Submit to lose them than attempt their Recovery under so great Discouragements. That in particular their Road to Easton is extremely inconvenient passing through a large Tract of Land, called the dry Lands, so thinly inhabited that in the Distance of Eleven Miles from Bethlehem to Easton there is but one House, and not one drop of Water, neither in the Summer nor fall Season to refresh either man or Horse, so that in Winter men are in Danger of perishing with Cold, or of being

parched up in Summer with the Heat. That the remote Situation of Easton is greatly grievous and expensive to All, but in a more particular manner to Jurymen, Widows and Orphan Children, whose attendance is indispensably necessary, and who must travel with great Danger and Expense to the said Town, especially in the Winter Season. That it frequently happens, that Persons who are summoned by the Sheriff to attend at the said Courts in Grand and Petit Juries neglect or refuse to give their attendance on account of the great Distance and Expense to the great Hinderance and Delay of the public Service.

That Your Petitioners moreover are put to much greater Charge for the Mileage payable to the Sheriff on all Suits on account of the Remoteness of the said Town, to the great Impoverishment of your Petitioners. That your Petitioners humbly conceive, that as in all good Government a lesser Evil is to be suffered in order to obtain a greater Good to the Community, So they hope, that in this good and free Government, a greater Evil, though established by Law shall not continue and prevail only to attain a lesser Good, and that although the Inhabitants of Easton, in case of removing from thence the Seat of Judicature, may in some measure suppose themselves to be Sufferers; yet it is better surely that they should bear a Small Inconveniency, than that the whole County should languish for ever under a Law which at first View appears so grievous and burthensome.

Your Petitioners therefore most Humbly Pray your Honours to take the Premises into your most Serious Consideration and that you will be pleased forthwith to forbid the said Trustees from erecting a Court House at Easton, and from engaging in or entering upon the said Work. And that Your Honors will be pleased to order further, that a Bill be brought in for the assent of His Honour the Governor for repealing so much of the said Law, as respects the Building of the said Court House, and giving Power to others, to build and erect the same, in some convenient Place, in or near the Centre of the said County.

And Your Petitioners shall ever Praise the Almighty, the Fountain of all Good for the Blessings of this Just and merciful Government, and Pray that it may continue (as it is) in the Hands of good and wise Men, to the latest Posterity.

And Your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever Pray

Peter Rhoads	George Wolf
Abraham Rinker	Jacob Mohr
Peter Shwal	Martin Doerr
John Peter Johannes	Henry Ritter
Martin Froelich	Jost Walb
Gottfried Knauss	Peter Bogart
Peter Herr	Henry Griss
Michael Stribie	Philip Gross
Peter Trassel	Adam Blank

Henry Jacoby
Michael Fink
Jacob Weber
Robert Young
Thomas Armstrong
Robert Gibson
Thomas Boyd
John Walker
Henry Wilson
David Chambers
William Hezlet
William Hezlet Jr.
James Dock
James Hays
William Hays
Daniel Hunsicker
Peter Knapply
Frederick Marsteller
Philip Seller
Philip Geissinger
Christopher Hummel
Henry Kooken
Adam Dressler
George Fatzinger
Jacob Kohler Jr.
Frederick Dill
Daniel Troxel
Jonathan Walton
William Brittan
Stephan Schneider
Joseph Romig
Conrad Knauss
Bernard Straub
John Hays
Alexander Dobbin
John Neal
Joseph Neal
George Gray
Neigel Gray
David M^c^Clain
James Ralston
James Culbertson
Thomas Craig
James Craig
James Kern
Martin Gorsh
James Young
Thomas Kidd
Christian Cassel
Margaret Greg
Nathaniel Taylor
George Sherp
Thomas Wilson
Charles Wilson
Frederick Kreitzer
Andrew Hezlet
Thomas Patton
John Hays
William M^c^Fadden
William Sturgeon
Christian Rinker
Henry Bachman
Samuel Bachman
George Bachman
John Bachman
Peter Kohler
Michael Troxel
Jacob Kohler
Michael Kleckner
Jacob Welter
John Kooken
Isaac Watson
Adam Kolb
Jacob Kolb
Loritz Neuhardt
Frederick Neuhardt
Philip Fred^k^ Knappenberger
James Horner
James Hope
John M^c^Nair
John Stenton
Hugh Grier
James M^c^Allister
James Allison
William Coungelton
John Burnside
William Kern
Samuel Stevenson
Robert Latimore
George Gibson

Samuel Wilson
Andrew Shindler
Peter Brady
George Lorintz
Jacob Spinner
Jacob Eberhard
Adam Desh
Peter Klein
John Klein
Adam Klein
Peter Haas
Adam Roth
Joseph Albrecht
Peter Mechlin
Godfrey Sholl
Jacob Wetterholt
George Gilbert
Jacob Herber
Nicholas Wetterholt
Nicholas Kind
Geo. Michael Kuntz
Herman Mohr
Louis Gruber
Casper Peter
John Rhoads
George Truckenmiller
Valentine Truckenmiller
Daniel Diehl
Conrad Menges
Adam Rader
Conrad Stetler
James Lion
Jacob Friend
William Ashlee
Jacob Miller
John Newcommer
Edward Jarrett
Daniel Good
William Hentz
Jacob Graul
Jacob Schwartz
John Vogel
George Brodbeck
John Trexler
Jacob Weitzel
Philip Miller
George Beitel
Thomas Everitt
John Everitt
Frederick Kemmerer
Peter Heimbach
George Reinhart
Henry Schweitzer
Samuel Wurtring
Paul Balliet
Daniel Schowalter
Joseph Schowalter
Hans Schowalter
George Klein
Christian Dregell
Conrad Wolf
Henry Geiger

[And about six hundred others.]